have taken appropriate action against the Government officials who provided the clear verification reports/certificates.

Recent meeting between India and China

3037. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China recently held a meeting to view out deference on Indo-China border on the western sectors of the line of control;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the talks yield any results with regard to the border issues and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The 14th meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group (JWG) on the Boundary Question was held in New Delhi on 21st November, 2002. The Indian delegation, which comprised of representatives of the Ministries of External Affairs, Home and Defence, was led by the Foreign Secretary. The Chinese delegation was led by Vice Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

(c) and (d) The discussions were held in a positive and forward looking manner. Both sides reviewed the ongoing process of LAC clarification. They also continue discussions on further Confidence Building Measures. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Expert Group (EG-14), which is a sub group of the JWG, would be held in Beijing in January, 2003.

A detailed review of bilateral relations since JWG-13, which was held on 31st July, 2001, was undertaken. Chinese side welcomed the forthcoming visit of Hon'ble Speaker to China in early January, 2003. This is a return visit for the visit of Mr. Li Peng, Chairman of the National People's Congress of China to India in January, 2001. Both sides agreed, *inter alia*, on the need to substantially enhance trade and economic relations, cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

Both sides also reviewed the functioning of the existing dialogue mechanisms such as on counter terrorism and security. The usefulness

of these dialogues and need to sustain and broaden them was reaffirmed. Regional and international issues were also discussed. Chinese side conveyed that China sees its relations with India in a broader perspective and not only in the perspective of South Asia.

Clinton's remarks on Gujarat

3038. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the former US President Bill Clinton listed Gujarat as one of the world's trouble spots alongwith Rwanda and Palestine during the annual conference of the Labour Party in Blackpool; and

(b) if so, whether any diplomatic steps have been taken to dispel this wrong conception and that, in future, Government would keep in view that such an image is not allowed to be created by Indian Foreign delegations/political personalities visiting abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) In his speech to the U.K. Labour Party Conference in October, 2002 Mr. Bill Clinton suggested, in the context of dealing with the current global challenges, that "we must want the same things for the children of Britain and America" as for the children of Cyprus, Rwanda, Colombia, the Middle East, Kashmir and Gujarat.

(b) Indian Missions and Posts abroad keep the Governments of their accreditation, the local media and other members of civil society fully briefed about the efforts made by Government of India to uphold secularism and protect and promote the fundamental rights of all its citizens.

MoU between India and Russia

3039. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia are set to sign an MoU that envisages joint operations against groups that pose a threat to their security;

(b) if so, the details of the MoU to be signed;